

Voices from Scotland | Andy - Kirkcaldy

The Scottish English Podcast – Episode 32



LANGUAGE LEARNING

*Transcript & Upper-intermediate and Advanced
Vocabulary Guide*

Below is the transcript with all selected B2, C1, and above vocabulary and phrases in **bold**. After the transcript, you'll find a table with definitions, British English pronunciation, and useful collocations/idioms for each highlighted word or phrase.

Transcript: Voices from Scotland | Andy - Kirkcaldy

Claire | Kilted English: hi, and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast. Today we have another episode from our 'Voices from Scotland' series, where we meet people from Scotland, or people who now call Scotland their home.

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More about all that in the description.

But let me introduce you to our guest today. Andy is from Kirkcaldy, which is a town in Fife on the east coast of Scotland. He's lived abroad for a long time now and is settled in Madrid, Spain. In our conversation, he explains his **journey** getting there and also discusses his experience as an English language teacher and now his work in a publishing house, which produces English language textbooks.

Andy and I use quite a lot of Scots words during our chat, so you might need the free transcript that you can find in the description. It gives you definitions, the pronunciation, and some idiomatic phrases for some of the vocabulary that we use in today's show.

And another heads up for some topics that pop up during our chat. We discuss the theme of **sectarianism**. This is when religions have strong support, which can lead to violence. **Sectarianism** in Scotland, while improving over the last 50 years, has been a **persistent issue**.

We also talk about travellers or romanies and the influence they have had over the language in the area of Fife that Andy lived in.

You will hear the word 'gypsy' during our conversation, but the correct terms are travellers or romani.

Other than that, you'll hear lots of great words from Fife, some that I didn't even know. So let's get into it.

Uh, thank you so much for joining me today. It's really great to have, uh, another Scottish voice on, uh, on the podcast. So thank you for joining me today.

Andy: Oh, great to be here. Thanks for having me.

Claire | Kilted English: Great. Um, so I want to, um, talk a little bit about, um, your experience, uh, both as a language teacher in the past and now working in, in publishing.

But I want to start, uh, from your childhood and could you tell us where you grew up, uh, where you're from, where you identify from, and if you've lived in other parts of Scotland as well.

Galston

Andy: Okay, so I actually, I actually grew up, um, in, well around Manchester and I moved to Scotland when I was 13. so I could probably fit into both categories of, uh, in this podcast. So like, yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: when I was 13 and, um, you know, my, my dad's Scottish, um, my mum's English, so I'm, I'm kind of half English. but. So, yeah, we moved to Kirkcaldy, in Fife.,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: My dad's actually from Ayrshire.

Claire | Kilted English: Yep.

Andy: um, a small place called, um, Galston. Um, do

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: It's kind

Claire | Kilted English: No, no.

Andy: it's kind of near,

Claire | Kilted English: I don't know the West Coast so much.

Andy: yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: tiny place. Um, at least as I remember it. I've not been for a long time. Um, and um, yeah, we moved to Kirkcaldy. Um, and um, yeah, so I lived in Kirkcaldy then I went to university in Glasgow, and then after

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: university I lived in Edinburgh. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: Interesting. It sounds like we've got quite a similar story. 'cause my mum's from Manchester as well. And then, and then, uh, she met my dad in Wales. They were both in the Air Force and then they moved to Scotland together. So my dad's from Glasgow and then they moved to Fife actually, uh, when they were in the Air Force.

And then they had, yeah. And Leuchars. Yeah. And then they, uh, moved to Dundee and had me and then my brother, and then I moved all around the world and then I moved back to Edinburgh for about nearly 10 years. So yeah, quite, quite similar. Yeah. So talking about all those different places, what do you see your **identity** as then?

Andy: I, I'm, I mean, I see myself as Scottish,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: used to see myself as a Fifer but you know, I kind of, it's weird. I still feel Scottish, I don't, you know, I, I think if I went back to Fife now, I don't know if I kind of feel as much of a Fifer. Do you know? I think, you know, I, I've kind of lost that **accent** and, you know, it's a very particular thing.

But yeah, no, I was very, much felt like a Fifer when I was living in Scotland.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I don't know if that, that kind of probably sounds a bit weird to people, but, um, yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: I think, I think knowing that you've lived abroad for a long time and having had similar experiences myself, it's... you, you have a sense of **belonging** when you're there, but then you move away and you get maybe a sense of **belonging** somewhere else. And when you go back to that place, you've lost something and things have moved on.

Like you move away. You think it hasn't changed, but you go back and you're like, oh yeah, A lot has changed.

Andy: it's, it's

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: I mean, yeah, I've lost contact with people and yeah, things change. You know, we're gonna talk about, you know, maybe, you know, words from there, but,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: think, you know, these are words from when I was at school, you know, 'cause obviously I went to Glasgow

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: later and, you know, I'm sure kids from Fife differently these days

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Um, so yeah, I dunno. And, and Fife's also a very, you know, it is a very particular place, know,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: you know, I've not got those kind of, you know, long standing family ties to it as well, you know, so I kind of, I, you know, I grew up there. I loved it.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and I definitely felt, you know, really **integrated** and part of it.

Then I was, you know, very much from Kirkcaldy, but, Yeah, like if I went back to Kirkcaldy, now again, if I speak to people from Kirkcaldy on the phone, you know, they're like, you don't sound like you're from Kirkcaldy. You know?

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Yeah. It's, uh, oh, that was gonna be one of my other questions about how your **accent** has changed, but we'll come to that in, in a bit maybe. But you, you mentioned the word 'words', so, uh, let's start with Kirkcaldy, what are some Kirkcaldy words that I would maybe not know 'cause I'm not from there?

Andy: It'll be interesting because obviously Dundee's not too far away and I think we

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: a few words. Um, so 'baffies', have

Claire | Kilted English: Oh yeah. For slippers,

Andy: Slippers? Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Uhhuh.

Andy: got that. I thought that was a Fife word

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. No.

Andy: so yeah, '**baffies**' is, is, is, yeah. A favourite word. I like that one.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. And that's a Scots word as well, isn't it? Right. It's not just, it's not just an **accent** or the way you say a word, but it's actually a different word. Right. So

Andy: Yeah. Yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: I think.

Andy: yeah, yeah. No, that's a, that's like, it's a different word. I didn't realize it was kind of the whole of Scotland though. I thought it was,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: kind of Fife or East coast.

Claire | Kilted English: Well, I wonder then if it's on the West Coast, I'd have to ask my dad. Well, I'll ask him.

Andy: Yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: don't think, I don't think I've heard it so much over there. So like, '**Baffies**' is one I thought,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I mean. Um, girls were, were, um, 'morts' or 'manashes'

Claire | Kilted English: Oh, that's a new one. manashes.

Andy: Um,

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. That's new.

Andy: which, you know, Manish, you know, it's, um, in English, it's, it would be,

Claire | Kilted English: Uhhuh.

ironic that that's for the girl, you know, women.

Yeah. Yeah.

Andy: but I

Claire | Kilted English: I like your **accent** when you say girl as well. It's a really strong R sound. It's really nice. Yeah. Good. Yeah.

Andy: That probably comes a bit from my dad. Um, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: more than Fife I think. so yeah. 'Mort' as well. 'Mort',

Claire | Kilted English: Mort never heard that.

Andy: So that, that

Hmm.

is quite, yeah, I've not heard that in many other places. I think it

Mm-hmm.

might have been a Scots word as well,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I've not heard that many other places.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: trying to think what else. Um, um, mean. 'lod' for a, and obviously that comes from lad or laddy, but um, obviously like Kirkcaldy, the A is

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: often said a bit more like an O so 'lod'

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you alright Lod.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: Um, so again, that's more of an **accent** thing though, you

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: that's kind of like, you know, that that's, you know, lad is obviously a word in English as well.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Um, trying to think what else. 'jugal' for dog.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Do you have that one?

Never heard that. No, never heard. That's so interesting. Okay.

Andy: but yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: Uhhuh.

Andy: a dog's usually a 'dug'.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: but, um, yeah, jugal Kirkcaldy,

Claire | Kilted English: Does that, do you wonder if that comes from the word dugal? Like, you know the name Dugal? Maybe somebody's dog was called Dugal, and then they just called it

Andy: it, I

Claire | Kilted English: Dugal.

Andy: Probably is something like that. It's like, you know, I think it's something that somebody's just made up, but quite a lot of. um, and I think this is quite common on the East Coast anyway, but in, in Kirkcaldy especially, so there's quite a lot of gypsy words.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Okay.

Andy: or, uh, that's probably the wrong way to say it, isn't it, uh, romani words.

Claire | Kilted English: travellers? Yeah. Uhhuh. Mm-hmm.

Andy: Um, travellers words, travelers language, uh, in Kirkcaldy. 'cause obviously

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: the, well, not not obviously if you're, if you're not from Kirkcaldy, you have the, the, the market, the Kirkcaldy market. Um.

Claire | Kilted English: It's this famous... festival that's in Kirkcaldy, has a famous name. I can't remember what it's called.

Andy: It's the market

Claire | Kilted English: It's like one week a year. Is it? Okay. Okay.

Andy: Um, and I think it's the week, it's the week before or the week after Easter. Can't remember

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: Um, but it, yeah, it's like a, it's the longest fair in Europe. Uh, I think

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: that that's still true, um, because

Claire | Kilted English: Alright.

Andy: Kirkcaldy is called the Lang Toon, and it

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: stretches across this bay.

So the fair goes right across, right along the, the **esplanade**,

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: the, the bay

Claire | Kilted English: it's physicality length rather than the length of time.

Andy: Yeah. Physicality length. And I

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Andy: don't think it's the biggest in Europe either

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I think there's a fair somewhere in England that's, that's bigger.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: but it's, it's, it's a big one. And, you know,

Yeah.

a kind of, I think it's one of the first events in. The Fair Communities,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you know, year. So it's, it's a big one for them

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: well. So I think, I might be wrong about this, but I, I've always assumed that just traditionally there's quite a big connection between Travelers and Kirkcaldy.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Andy: And there's quite a lot of words, um, that, that are used that I think come from Romani.

So I think that Manish is one, 'gadgie' - oh that's another.

Claire | Kilted English: Oh, okay.

Andy: one for, for,

Claire | Kilted English: Ah,

Andy: a man, so a 'gadgie'

Claire | Kilted English: okay. So a 'gadgie' in Dundee means something completely different.

Andy: what's that mean?

Claire | Kilted English: Um, and now I don't know if this is still current use, but

Andy: I

Claire | Kilted English: in the, like late nineties, early two thousands, a gadgie was like a, a person of low education and, uh, like a Ned, but we would never say Ned in Dundee. So,

Andy: we wouldn't say ned

Claire | Kilted English: yeah.

Andy: either,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Yeah.

Andy: literally were gadgies, you know what I mean? So like, we would call each other 'gadgie'

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: without, without that kind of,

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

It's

Andy: all coming back now. Um, we'd also call each other Chav. You alright, chav.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: Um,

Claire | Kilted English: well I've heard chav, but not, not as a boy.

Andy: when that became like a word, like in English to describe again what you're saying.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

someone

Andy: with low education, a bit

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: **dodgy**,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: I was like, oh wow. You know, because that's another word that we would literally use. And again, I think that does come from. Uh, gypsy because, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: in Spanish, chaval is boy

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Andy: I think chav comes from

Claire | Kilted English: Mm.

Andy: chaval. Um, and.

Claire | Kilted English: Never thought about that before, but my brain is doing lots of things right now.

Andy: so, so we, we would call each other 'chav' and 'gadgie' at school

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and it would be unironic

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: be became, obviously if you are from Kirkcaldy, and this may be why, you know, like it's become, know, if you're from Kirkcaldy and you go to the places and you calling, you know, if you're calling each other gadgie they're like, oh, they're from Kirkcaldy, they're from Fife.

You know, so I think that's

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: maybe a bit why it's an insult in other places.

Claire | Kilted English: Maybe that's why we've picked up that way, then I wonder. Yeah. Interesting. Interesting.

Andy: a bit more, I think, you know, because it became kind of with trainspotting as well,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you know, kind of 'radge' and 'gadge'. But yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: 'radge' would be more the, like, the insult one.

Yeah,

you

Claire | Kilted English: I think radge is like a, I think that's an Edinburgh word as well. Like it's definitely not something I'd use in Dundee.

Andy: Oh, we, we, we would use that in Kirkcaldy.

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. Okay. You're a bit closer.

Andy: Yeah, I get, so I think, you know, a lot of these words are maybe, you know, um, maybe shared, you know, when I read trainspotting, I was like, oh, this is very similar to how we speak.

Mm-hmm.

a lot of the, the words, I think they use 'manashe' in that as well.

And again, I think comes from kind of, I, yeah, I don't know, because it's difficult

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: to find out the origin of these things, but I think they're gypsy words.

Mm-hmm. That's so interesting.

so, yeah. Um, what else?

Claire | Kilted English: Okay. And well, and then how do you think, if you think about, uh, using these Scot's words, how does that impact on your sense of culture from that place? Or do you feel like there's different cultures when you go to, like, you went to university in Glasgow, for example. Do you think that, did you notice a change in culture?

Andy: Yes, definitely.

Claire | Kilted English: Hm.

Andy: I mean, because in Glasgow, if you're not. From Glasgow? Well, I mean, I, I don't know what your experience was when you were there, but you're kind of like a 'Teuchter'.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you know, you get called a 'teuchter'

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Which means, uh, we, we should explain for people who don't know what 'teuchter' is, do you wanna explain?

Andy: So a 'teuchter', I, I think is someone from the Highlands.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: say, uh, it's probably a Gaelic

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: speaker originally.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: 'A **country bumpkin**' might be the English

Andy: I think they,

Claire | Kilted English: equivalent.

in Glasgow though, I think they're using it a bit more like a **country bumpkin**, but obviously.

Yeah.

Andy: In Fife, we don't consider ourselves to be **country bumpkins**.

You know, it's part of

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: the central belt. It's very **industrial**.

Claire | Kilted English: Yep.

Andy: we can, we don't consider ourselves to be 'teuchters', you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you know, again, I would maybe call somebody from the Highlands a 'teuchter',

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: but not from the lowlands either, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: but yeah, in Glasgow they use it more like, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Not from a city.

Andy: Yeah, then

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: there, you know, just like anywhere else

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: basically. It's like, you know, so I, I would've thought I'm an East Coaster or a Fifer,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: you're like a 'teuchter'

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: so there was definitely that and um, yeah, and obviously you've got the **sectarianism** there and obviously

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: there is **sectarianism** in the whole of Scotland.

Um, but I think it's. It wasn't something I was that aware of. Really? In Fife. There's a lot more of that in Glasgow and I found that quite strange

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Andy: I didn't realise the, the way the colours that you wore, you know, you can really kind, you know, I, I wasn't like in. In Fife, I don't think people are as aware of that, or certainly I wasn't.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you know, so I, I don't know what it would be like maybe in Edinburgh or Dundee. Maybe that's, um, maybe there's a bit more of it. Um, and like I say, I think it is an issue in Scotland generally,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah,

Andy: um, I

Claire | Kilted English: know in Edinburgh, I, I know in Edinburgh there's definitely that **sectarian** feeling. Uh, I've, I remember other Scottish teachers who come from Edinburgh, uh, this is English language teachers I'm talking about, and they would talk about the **sectarianism** in, in, uh. In Edinburgh, but I don't recall it being such a big issue in Dundee either, even though we've got two football teams in Dundee.

I don't, I think that originally they were divided on, uh, religious lines, but I don't know, uh, how, I don't know. Maybe it probably does exist, but I didn't, I didn't experience that myself.

Andy: Yeah. And again, no, I didn't either. But again, that, that might be because, I'm, I'm Protestant, you know, so maybe I didn't, you know, I wouldn't experience it because of that.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: know, so I'm, I'm, I'm sure it exists, but I just think it's much more so in Glasgow

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I knew about it 'cause obviously my dad's from the west coast

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: um. Yeah, I mean, he's, he definitely wasn't kind of, you know, **sectarian** in his, his kind of view. So I, it was it, you know, I, I did find that a little bit kind of shocking when I, when I, when I first went over that. And again, I never really felt that in, you know, when I lived in Edinburgh and I lived in Leith, um, you know, I, I didn't really kind of feel that to be much of an issue.

You know, people weren't. Always talking about it, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: know, I've, I've, yeah. So yeah, I definitely felt that there was a difference in that sense. Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: I, I've never lived in Glasgow, so I don't, I can't comment on that, on that kind of side of things, but you, you know, it's just a kind of thing that's in the culture that if you go to Glasgow, you need to be careful about what you're wearing, where you're going, what you're saying. Um, but yeah, it's, uh,

Andy: mean, I

Claire | Kilted English: mm-hmm.

Andy: sure it's got a lot better because I mean, at that time there was still troubles in Ireland.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and obviously that situation, you know, it's a bit better now. Um, I think so, you know, hopefully that, and that will have cooled the temperature down in Glasgow. So I hope, know, this is, this is like 30 years ago, we're talking now, so hopefully

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: kind of history.

'cause obviously I don't think things were as bad then as they were, you know, when my dad was young, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Andy: a, a, a bit of a difference between the west coast and east

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: coast.

Claire | Kilted English: You've been in the English language teaching and now in the publishing, uh, environment for quite some time. Can you tell us how you got into that and how you found yourself in Spain as well? I.

Andy: Yeah, I mean, I was living in Edinburgh and I was working as a waiter. Um, and there were a lot of Spanish people there at that time, and maybe they still are, I don't know. Um, working

Claire | Kilted English: There are. Yep.

Andy: and in the kind

Claire | Kilted English: Uhhuh.

Andy: catering and **hospitality** industry.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

So I got to know a lot of Spanish people and I just thought what they were doing, going abroad and a different language was, was fantastic.

Mm-hmm.

Andy: And, um, yeah, I thought I'd, I'd like to do that. I'd like to have that experience. I'd like to, to go abroad and, learn a different language, live in a different culture. Um, see a bit of the sun, I guess. Um, you know, so I was, I was going out with a, a Spanish lassie at the time. Um, and yeah, so I did the CELTA and I got into teaching and, and moved to Spain.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and. I mean, I, I kind of, I went away. I was in Saudi Arabia for a bit and yeah, but I, I, I went back to Spain and, you know, I like Spain and

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I met someone

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and kind of made my life here. So yeah, I've

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: for 25 years. Maybe a little bit more. Depends on how you count it. Exactly.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Interesting. And, uh, you're in Madrid now, right?

Andy: Mm-hmm.

Claire | Kilted English: And, uh, was it always Madrid or were you in other cities

Andy: No,

Claire | Kilted English: as well?

Andy: moved to Spain, I actually moved to San Sebastian,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Don Ostia in the Basque country.

Claire | Kilted English: Yep.

Andy: and, yeah, started learning Spanish. They obviously, they speak Basque there as well,

Claire | Kilted English: Yep.

In San Sebastian, people, well they, they, they tend to speak in the city at least, um, mostly Spanish.

Mm-hmm.

Andy: so. Yeah, I didn't need to to learn Basque.

Obviously there were a few words that people used, and that was interesting. Um, um, but, but yeah, then I moved to, to Madrid, um, to, to, to get a different teaching job and yeah, met someone here and stayed here.

Claire | Kilted English: And have you ever experienced any? Mm, I'll ask this question again. Have you ever, uh, have people, your students, have your students ever noticed your language, your, um, your **accent** or the fact that you speak differently to other teachers, for example?

Andy: I'm sure. sure they have, but I don't think, yeah, I don't think for most people when you start learning a language, I just don't think you've got the level to kind of notice that. Really. and it's like, like when I went to San Sebastian, I mean, they have a different **accent** up there. They have some different words

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and obvi obviously you notice the different words, but, um, know. I didn't, I didn't have kind of good enough Spanish to really be able to appreciate the differences in **accent**.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: so yeah, I think, I think it's not really an issue. I think I've always spoken relatively fast in class, like compared to some teachers I've, I've observed and seen

Claire | Kilted English: yep.

Andy: um. I've, I've always kind of believed myself that, you need to kind of get used to how people speak, I, I definitely kind of swapped out. You know, Scots words, you know, I wasn't teach, you know, teaching people how 'jugal' or, 'manishe' or, or, you know, those words, you know, it was, it was all kind of, um, you know, English words,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: wasn't saying 'aye' for yes. Or anything like that. But, um, no, I don't think people really did. Obviously at higher levels, people do. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: I, I, I don't think so. No.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. I don't, I just remember being in Spanish classrooms myself as a, as a student, and we'd listen to a recording and I, I could hear that someone was from a Latin American country, and I couldn't distinguish where, but I knew that it wasn't Spanish Spanish, you know?

Andy: That's true.

Claire | Kilted English: Um, and, and I, this is like B2 level, so not super high, but I, I, I think I was beyond that level of, uh.

The basic level so I could, I could start to distinguish different words, different **accents** from different places. So yeah, I think, uh, I think for me, when I'm in my classrooms and I teach mostly upper intermediate and advanced now, I try to teach some Scots words because if people go to Scotland and they speak to people from Scotland, they might hear these words.

And I think that a lot of Scots words are really quite close to English words anyway, so they will understand it. Uh, and I have used on occasion, not very often, but, uh, things like, um, 'Chewing the fat' or like those kind of shows from Scotland where they have quite a strong **accent** or they use Scots a lot as an example of what Scots actually sounds like.

Um, obviously not for lower levels of of students, but I think, I think Scots is similar enough to English that anyone at a higher level who's learning could probably follow along quite easily.

Andy: And, and you know, it, it, you know, and it is English, you know, uh, people are speaking English and obviously people have stronger **accents**, you get that anywhere. You know, it, it certainly in the UK anyway, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: **accents**. They use slightly different words and also, I mean, Scotland's not a big place. There's not maybe that many people living there, but there's Scotland's a, a place that exports people. There's lots of

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: living in England and London. You know, I've never seen this, you know, you often see that about French people you know living in England that, you know, London would be the second biggest city in France or something like that.

There's so many French

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: people living there. There was before this is before Brexit.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: know. The, if you did that for Scottish people, I'm, I'm sure it'd be kind of, it must be similar, you know, there, there's,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: more Scottish people in London than in most, you know, it, it would, I dunno, it would probably be a bit less than Edinburgh, but I, I, you know, like I say, I've never seen that

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: there's, there's a lot of Scottish people, you know, and obviously their **accents**, I, I'm assuming, you know, get **modulated**, uh uh as

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: They're probably not, but you know, you get people in the BBC that are speaking with a Scottish **accent**. So yeah, I

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you need to **expose** yourself, I think, you know, to all these different **accents**, you know, and,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: Indian **accents**, American **accents**,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Jamaican **accents**, and, and Scottish and Irish and Welsh as well.

Andy: Yeah, for sure.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Yeah. No, I think it's important to, to share these **accents** because they're not always shared. Yes. We, there is more visibility for different non-standard, if you wanna call that the, the way, uh, **accents**. But yeah, that's part of my, my, my mission to kind of share different **accents** as well. So, yeah. That's great.

Um, and then you've now moved into the kind of publishing world. And how did you make the step from being a teacher into, uh, I know you're te, you're in the English teaching

publishing

world, right? So how did you make that step?

Andy: I mean, I applied for a job. Um, so yeah, I mean. Teaching and, in academies. Um, you know, it's kind of,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: getting tough as you know, it's a

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: disrupted industry. There are lots of online kind of courses and the business isn't the same as it was maybe 10, 15 years ago.

Mm-hmm.

yeah, I thought it was a good time to make a move, um, and try something else.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: um, yeah, I applied for a job and I was lucky enough to get it. Mm-hmm.

Claire | Kilted English: And how has that changed your opinion of, uh, English language teaching? Because you're looking at it from a different side.

Andy: Yeah, I

Claire | Kilted English: Or has it changed it? Yeah.

Andy: I mean, in some ways no. 'cause you've got

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you've got your own opinions on how English should be taught and how you would teach something. But if you're making a book, you've got to make it for. You know, the most people possible if you know, to, to, to, to make money off it. No.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: are making books for the school system. So I wasn't actually a teacher really in the, the, the school system and, and you know, the Spanish school system for example, or, you know, so, um, the, the publishing. Um, houses spend a lot of time and money and research on finding out what they want, so those are the books we make. So yeah, they're, they're not necessarily, um, you know, and obviously these are my own opinions. I should, I should mention here, they're not necessarily the books, always the, and, and the way that I would teach, um, with my classes, but, um, they're, they're, what teachers in the Spanish or the Italian, let's say, you know, just to, to give two examples or, or Turkish, um, education systems would like, you know, that's where they're doing the, the market research and that's what they're producing books for. So I think, you know, you have to bear that when you pick up a book, you have to bear that in mind that it's probably, you know, not may be made exactly for, for you or your classes, depending on what **context**

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: you're teaching in. yeah, so I think that's something that, has been interesting to kind of see,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: okay, so that's why this is done this way, you know? 'cause it's

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: know, I think I, I was a teacher trainer and sometimes you'd pick up a book and think, you know, maybe that's not, that's not how I would teach it. Um, but you know, if you've got a class of 30, 40 people, then

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: you might need to do it a little bit differently. You know, when the

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: **rubber hits the road**

Claire | Kilted English: And you know that any teacher who's gonna pick up any of the books that your uh, organisation produces is probably gonna. Um, **modify** it for their classroom and, you know, all the time. Right. So, uh,

Andy: Yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: yeah.

Andy: it's kind of, yeah, teachers are always gonna do what they're gonna do in their classes or, you know, depending on the **context** or what their boss says they've got to do,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: as well. So yeah, it's, it's the, the, they're an aid to teaching, you know, the, the teacher has to still do all the work, you

Claire | Kilted English: know?

Yeah.

Andy: Yeah.

all the actual teaching.

Claire | Kilted English: you've said that you haven't lived in Scotland for quite some time now. Um, but if you had a student who came to you who said, oh, Andy, I'm going to go to Scotland next week. What should I do? Where should I go? What are the, um, things I should be know about? What, what, what, what, uh, what advice would you give to your student?

Andy: Well, I would say just, well, I mean there's, there's so many places that you've kind of got to go and see and, and you know, people want to, to go and see Edinburgh, know, I would, I would definitely say do that. Um, Dundee as well, um, um, you know, has got, got lots of, you know, great things and museums and stuff.

Claire | Kilted English: Now, maybe not. It didn't have that 20 years ago, but now it's definitely getting better. Yeah.

Andy: I mean, yeah. When I, when I lived in Fife, you know, we generally didn't go to Dundee. We'd go to Edinburgh.

Claire | Kilted English: Oh yeah.

Dundee was dangerous anyway. you, if you were a young lad

Yeah.

Andy: Um.

Claire | Kilted English: Depends which part of Dundee you went to, but there were some places I didn't go.

Andy: yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: if you, it wasn't a good idea for you from Fife anyway. Um, but, um, yeah, so I, you know, Edinburgh's a, you know, it's, it's a great place to, to visit and, you know, it's, it is really nice. I mean, if you go back

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and you, you, you are doing touristy things. Edinburgh is great. You know, it's, it is

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

a brilliant city to visit. Definitely visit Glasgow. Um, there's, there's, there's always lots going on there and lots to see and just to kinda get a feel for the place as well, you know, 'cause it, you know, it is, it is great. Again, great museums. The Kelvingrove,

Yeah.

Andy: um, is it Kelvingrove? Kelvingrove Hall? Art Gallery. I can't,

Claire | Kilted English: I think it's a museum.

Andy: Museum. Yeah. Okay.

Claire | Kilted English: I think so. Yeah.

Andy: Um, you know, uh, is it the Burrell Burrell collection that's there?

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Andy: So I mean, that's, that's, uh, fantastic with the university up above, um, you know, lovely parks and things as well as the, the hustle and bustle of the city. Obviously the

Highlands, um, and islands. I mean, there's still places that I've not been to that I want to go to.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: I've never been to Aberdeen

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: Um,

Claire | Kilted English: Oh, okay.

Andy: yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: been. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: It's a nice city too. It's uh,

Andy: Yeah, people

Claire | Kilted English: it's so, it's called the Granite City. Right. And it, it is like that 'cause all the buildings are grey. Um, but it's nice as well. It's got some nice parks and, uh, you've got the beach right there as well. Yeah. It's nice. Mm-hmm.

Andy: Um, Dunfermline is nice. Dunfermline's a good place to visit. Um, I,

Claire | Kilted English: It's got a nice, uh, cathedral there, right? The, on the,

Andy: well,

Claire | Kilted English: The castle.

Andy: It is a cathedral, isn't it? Um, it's got, yeah, the ruins of the Abbey just next to it.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: and Pittencrieff Park

Claire | Kilted English: what I'm saying. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Andy: it's, yeah, it's really nice. And, um, yeah, full of history. Was the capital of Scotland.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: yeah, I'd go there. I'm,

Claire | Kilted English: I've got a video about Dunfermline on my channel, so yeah.

Andy: brilliant

Claire | Kilted English: Telling everybody to go and have a look at that.

Andy: Uh,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: of, I mean, not sure I'd send people to Kirkcaldy to visit, to be honest. I'll probably get criticism, for that, but it's not really a kind of destination place. Dysart's very nice. Dysart Harbour.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: used to live in Dysart

Claire | Kilted English: Okay.

Andy: um. But yeah, I mean, again, it's, one of it is, it is a kind of place where you need to be a bit careful where you go in. and, um, you know, the market's probably, um, a good time to visit, but yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: yeah. Um, obviously there's lots of nice places in Fife.

Claire | Kilted English: Hmm.

Andy: St. Andrew's is kind of very **atmospheric** with the, the ruins of the cathedral there. It's

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Yeah, it always makes it, it makes, it kind of me sad, uh, in a way.

But, um, it's, it's.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: You know, you're looking at it and thinking, this must have been an amazing place.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: it's just, yeah, it's just, you know, in ruins, you know,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: like then

Claire | Kilted English: lots of castles like that, right?

Andy: so much of that in Scotland and, and Scottish history.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Stirling

Andy: Castle's amazing. Um, it's a good place to visit and, and yeah, just a really nice place as well. Um,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: for

Claire | Kilted English: What would you say students should be wary of? Um, maybe thinking about communication and, uh, getting about Scotland,

Andy: I,

Claire | Kilted English: things like that.

Andy: don't think they need to be really wary of anything. I think that Scottish people

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Certainly in my, you know, are so helpful. I think they'll, you know, for the most part, I think Scottish people will go out of their way to help tourists

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: and, and visitors.

Um, you know, maybe at the, the highest, highest peak of the festival in Edinburgh, you know, the locals will maybe be a bit kinda fed up of, of everything

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: going around. But I think in general, people that I've in, you know, living in Edinburgh, you know, there are lots of tourists and people were almost always, you know, so helpful.

And I think, think it's almost kind of a point of pride to kind of be more helpful than the English and to be friendlier than

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: the English. I think it's, I think that's,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: you know, I think that's the thing. And so I, I don't think you'd need to be too wary of anything really.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

I definitely

Andy: wouldn't go into it with that kind of, yeah.

I, I, I think.

Claire | Kilted English: Maybe the weather

Andy: Oh

Claire | Kilted English: be a bit weary.

Andy: Midges. They,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Midges.

Andy: I'm terrified of the Midges. and,

Claire | Kilted English: maybe explain what midges are. It's a small, small insect that will will bite your skin and make you feel itchy and

Andy: Yeah.

Claire | Kilted English: just Ah.

Andy: like, if you think mosquitoes are bad,

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: is like the next level because you can't stop them. You know, they're, they're so small

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Andy: and they just get everywhere and they can really make your life a misery.

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: Yeah, they didn't used to. I, they, they usually bite other people before me, but they, they definitely get to, to me

Claire | Kilted English: you're lucky.

Andy: yeah,

Claire | Kilted English: I, I am. I midges and mosquitoes absolutely love me. Uh, if there's one mosquito in my bedroom at night, I will guarantee I've got at least 10 bites in the morning. It's, it's horrible. They love me. Yeah. So it's not, not.

Andy: obviously when, when there's a lot of them, there's nothing you can do. They're going to bite everyone. But yeah. So

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Yeah, the weather. Yeah. Yeah, the weather and,

Claire | Kilted English: Bring a jacket, a raincoat, even in summer.

Andy: Yeah. Definitely. Yeah. Always, always. Yeah. Bring your winter gear in the summer for sure.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: 'cause it'll change. Um, but yeah, with the food as well, I mean. Well, it gets a kind of bad press, but I, I think it's, I think there's lots of good food in Scotland,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: you know, if try things out, you know, definitely try haggis. You know, I think most countries have something similar really.

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: you know, I think. Yeah, England's given it a bad press. Uh, I think there's

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

lots of really

Andy: good food in Scotland and, um, yeah, get out there and try it and,

Claire | Kilted English: Yeah.

Andy: try different things. Try the fish and chips, try the deep fried pizza. Um, or,

Claire | Kilted English: Fife's got some famous places for fish and chips as well. Right.

Anstruther, right? They've got really good. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Andy: yeah, really good fish and chip shops in both those

Claire | Kilted English: Mm-hmm.

Andy: Um, yeah, really good. Really good.

Claire | Kilted English: Well, we're, we've got to, we've got to the end of the, our chat with lots of talk about food. So I hope everybody's feeling hungry and they can all go, go to Scotland and have fish and chips.

So yeah, just wanna say thanks again, Andy, for uh, a great chat and, uh,

Andy: Thanks for having me.

Claire | Kilted English: good. Yeah. Thank you again.

Wow. Andy, I feel hungry now. I wish I could nip off to Anstruther and get myself a fish supper.

And I can't believe I missed your reference to deep fried pizza! I learned a lot of new words from this chat and I got to understand how different words can have different meanings in different places. Fascinating.

I want to say thank you to Andy for joining me on the podcast and hope you enjoyed the show too. What did you find most interesting? Tell me in the comments below.

Don't forget to subscribe for more podcasts about Scotland, its history, culture, and **accents**. See you next time.

Vocabulary Table

Word/Phrase	Definition	Pronunciation (BrE)	Collocations & Idiomatic Phrases
sectarianism	Strong religious divisions that often lead to conflict or discrimination	/sɛk'teəriənɪzəm/	sectarian violence, combat sectarianism
accent	A distinctive way of pronouncing a language	/'æksənt/	regional accent, strong accent, lose one's accent
identity	Who or what a person is; sense of self	/aɪ'dentɪti/	national identity, personal identity, establish identity
belonging	A feeling of being accepted in a group	/bɪ'lonɪŋ/	sense of belonging, belonging to a community
integrated	Fully included or combined into a group or system	/'ɪntɪɡreɪtɪd/	integrated society, be integrated into

persistent issue	A problem that exists for a long time	/pə'sɪstənt 'ɪʃuː/	persistent issue, address a persistent issue
journey	Travelling from one place to another	/'dʒɜːni/	make a journey, begin a journey
industrial	Related to industry or factories	/ɪn'dʌstriəl/	industrial town, industrial centre
modulated	Changed or adjusted, especially voice or accent	/'mɒd.jʊ.leɪ.tɪd /	modulated voice, modulated accent
expose	Reveal or make publicly known	/ɪk'spəʊz/	expose to danger, expose someone to
rubber hits the road	The point at which something is put to a practical test	/'rʌbər hɪts ðə rəʊd/	when the rubber hits the road
context	Circumstances that help explain something	/'kɒntɛkst/	in context, contextual understanding
modify	To change or adapt	/'mɒdɪfaɪ/	modify behaviour, modify approach
hospitality	Friendly and generous behaviour to guests	/,hɒsprɪ'tælɪti/	show hospitality, receive hospitality

atmospheric	Creating a particular mood or feeling	/ˌætˈmæsˈfɛrɪk/	atmospheric setting, atmospheric music
Baffies	(scots) Slippers		
Esplanade	a level area of open ground in a town for people to walk along, often by the sea or a river	/ˌespləˈneɪd/	Take a stroll along the esplanade
Dodgy	seeming or likely to be dishonest	/ˈdɒdʒi/	Dodgy deals, dodgy methods
Country bumpkin	a person from the countryside who seems stupid	/ˌkʌntri ˈbʌmpkɪn/	